THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The State Government of Madhya Pradesh have drawn up an Action Plan for providing immediate relief to the people of affected districts. The plan has been prepared for a period of 5 years and the total requirement of funds for implementing various schemes is Rs. 71875.37 lakhs.

(c) and (d). In the discussions held in this Ministry in this regard, it was decided that the Action plans prepared by the affected State Governments would be examined by the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) and then incorporated by the respective States in their 8th Plan proposals. The Planning Commission while finalising the States' Plans would consider these proposals favourably within the approved formula of Central assistance.

[*English*]

Compensation for Death in Police/ Government custody

2708. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has fixed the amount of compensation to be paid to the next of kin of persons dying in police/Government custody;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to impement the verdict?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). This Ministry is not aware of the Supreme Court judgement laying down a uniform pattern for payment of compensation amount in the cases of death of persons in police/ governement custody.

Issuance of Identity Cards

2709. SHRI SOBHANJ ADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to issue identity cards to the citizens with complete information relating to the citizen for identification purpose during Elections, transaction with financial institutions etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Identity cards are being issued in specified border areas with a view to register benefice residents, to collect reliable information regarding status of residents and to check movement of visitors who stay for more than thirty days.

[*Translation*]

Fall in Prices of Kharif crops

2710. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of paddy, Jowar, bazra, macca and ragi per quintal have fallen down during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the farmers do not suffer as a result of fall in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). The prices of rice, Jawar, bajra, macca and rigi have shown a rising trend during the last three months as may be observed from the following table:-

Index Number of Wholesale Prices
(Monthly Average)

(Base 1981-82=100)

	November, 1991	December, 1991 (P)	January, 1992 (P)
Rice	223.7	228.0	237.7
Jowar	211.5	231.0	239.1
Bajra	209.8	251.7	267.7
Maize (Macca)	227.0	237.2	247.1
Ragi	164.7	169.8	174.0

(P) = Provisional

[*English*]

Restructuring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission

2711. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set-up a Committee to examine the restructuring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent the restructruring of Oil and Natural Gas Commission will help to improve the oil exploration in the country;

(d) whether the Government are appointing another Committee for looking into the need fro greater managerial and financial autonomy of public enterprises in the hydrocarbon sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Government has constituted a Committee to examine all aspects of the existing organisation of Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the need for its resturctruing.

(c) This could be assessed only after knowing the recommendations of the Committee referred to above.

(d) and (e). Another Committee has been constituted by the Govemmeni to review the extent of managerial and financial autonomy and accountability of public sector enterprises in the hydrocarbon sector.

Food aid to Russia

2712. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India provided any food aid to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an aid is also being contemplated to Ethiopia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have announced a contribution of Rs. 150 million to the Russian Commission for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance, as a gesture of friendship and in the tradition of mutual cooperation.